

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Shuji MIYASAKA et al.  
Title : SIGNAL PROCESSING DEVICE AND SIGNAL PROCESSING METHOD  
Serial No.: filed concurrently  
Filed : December 22, 2000

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination and calculation of the filing fee  
for this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 19 and 20 as follows:

--19. (Amended) A portable type apparatus comprising:  
an audio signal input section for inputting an encoded audio  
signal;

a signal processing device [of claim 1] for decoding said  
encoded audio signal, said signal processing device comprising:

first to Nth sub signal processing sections each of  
which is given  $(N \times t + i)$ th frame signals ( $i$  and  $t$  are  
integers,  $N$  is a natural number, and  $0 \leq i < N$ ) of a  
first digital signal framed for each predetermined time

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interval and each of which completes a first process within a period  $(N \times T)$  ( $T$  is a real number); and

a main signal processing section which converts a signal processed in said  $(i + 1)$ th sub signal processing section into a second digital signal by completing a second process within a period  $T$ ; and

an audio signal output section for outputting said decoded audio signal.

20. (Amended) A portable type apparatus comprising:  
an audio signal input section for inputting an audio signal;  
a signal processing device [of claim 2] for encoding said audio signal, said signal processing device comprising:

first to Nth sub signal processing sections each of which is given  $(N \times t + i)$ th frame signals ( $i$  and  $t$  are integers,  $N$  is a natural number, and  $0 \leq i < N$ ) of a first digital signal framed for each predetermined time interval and each of which completes a first process within a period  $(N \times T)$  ( $T$  is a real number);

a main signal processing section which converts a signal processed in said  $(i + 1)$ th sub signal

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processing section into a second digital signal by  
completing a second process within a period T;

a distribution section inputting said first  
digital signal to one of said first to Nth sub signal  
processing sections for each frame interval one after  
another; and

a selection section selectively outputting one of  
the after-process signal outputted from said first to  
Nth sub signal processing sections for each frame  
interval one after another to input the signal to said  
main signal processing section; and

[an] a memory for holding said encoded audio signal.--

REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, claims 19 and 20 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Therefore, the required fees are calculated below: